

# Maurice Hinchey NEWS

## 26<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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### **HINCHEY URGES STATE TO USE AVAILABLE FEDERAL FUNDS FOR MEADOW HILL NOISE ABATEMENT**

KINGSTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) today released a letter he sent to New York State Department of Transportation Commissioner Joseph Boardman. In the letter, Hinchey urged the DOT to use federal funds already provided to the state to immediately act to mitigate the noise pollution experienced by residents of the Meadow Hill subdivision in the Town of Newburgh.

"The state now acknowledges what the residents of Meadow Hill have known for years, that the noise level from I-84 is unacceptably high," said Hinchey. "But now DOT says they don't have the money to do anything about it. That's very disturbing to me since we gave them over \$8 billion for just this kind of work."

In May 2002 the DOT completed a traffic noise investigation in Meadow Hill that found that current noise levels exceed the Noise Abatement Criteria levels for that area. The study concluded that applying the department's noise policy, it would be reasonable and feasible to construct a sound barrier to reduce the noise at this location. That conclusion was based on the excessive levels of noise documented in this investigation and cost effectiveness of mitigation based on cost per residence. DOT officials, however, have told Meadow Hill residents that the agency lacks the funds to complete the project.

In the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) passed in 1998, New York's congressional delegation secured a record \$8.196 billion in federal highway assistance for New York State for use between fiscal years 1998 and 2003. In addition, New York has received more than \$230 million in federal highway aid for fiscal years 2000 through 2002 because of surplus federal gas tax revenues.